

# Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

Volume 23, Number 2

June 2021



**Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.**

**Officers**

President	Bob Simmons	<a href="mailto:president@necaveconservancy.org">president@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Vice President	Thom Engel	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@necaveconservancy.org">vicepresident@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Secretary	Mitch Berger	<a href="mailto:secretary@necaveconservancy.org">secretary@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Treasurer	William Folsom	<a href="mailto:treasurer@necaveconservancy.org">treasurer@necaveconservancy.org</a>

**Board of Trustees**

Devon Hedges	<a href="mailto:d.hedges@necaveconservancy.org">d.hedges@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Jacob Morris-Siegel	<a href="mailto:j.morris-siegel@necaveconservancy.org">j.morris-siegel@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Kevin Dumont	<a href="mailto:k.dumont@necaveconservancy.org">k.dumont@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Erik Nieman	<a href="mailto:e.nieman@necaveconservancy.org">e.nieman@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Ramon Armen	<a href="mailto:r.armen@necaveconservancy.org">r.armen@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Leslie Hatfield	<a href="mailto:l.hatfield@necaveconservancy.org">l.hatfield@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Riley Drake	<a href="mailto:r.drake@necaveconservancy.org">r.drake@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Morgan Ingalls	<a href="mailto:m.ingalls@necaveconservancy.org">m.ingalls@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Paul Rubin	<a href="mailto:p.rubin@necaveconservancy.org">p.rubin@necaveconservancy.org</a>

**Committee Chairs**

Acquisitions	Chuck Porter	<a href="mailto:acquisitions@necaveconservancy.org">acquisitions@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Bylaws	Joe E. Levinson	<a href="mailto:bylaws@necaveconservancy.org">bylaws@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Education	Thom Engel	<a href="mailto:education@necaveconservancy.org">education@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Membership	Peter Youngbaer	<a href="mailto:membership@necaveconservancy.org">membership@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Nominating	Norm Berg	<a href="mailto:nominating@necaveconservancy.org">nominating@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Fundraising Barn Dance	Vacant Emily Davis and Michael Warner	<a href="mailto:fundraising@necaveconservancy.org">fundraising@necaveconservancy.org</a> <a href="mailto:barndance@necaveconservancy.org">barndance@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Office	Emily Davis and Michael Warner	<a href="mailto:office@necaveconservancy.org">office@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Preserves	Thom Engel Ellen Schwartz Christa Hay (Onesquethaw)	<a href="mailto:onesquethaw@necaveconservancy.org">onesquethaw@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Erik Nieman (interim) (Sellecks)	<a href="mailto:sellecks@necaveconservancy.org">sellecks@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Mitch Berger (Knox)	<a href="mailto:knox@necaveconservancy.org">knox@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Michael Chu Thom Engel Chuck Porter (Clarksville)	<a href="mailto:clarksville@necaveconservancy.org">clarksville@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Erik Neiman (Ella)	<a href="mailto:ella_armstrong@necaveconservancy.org">ella_armstrong@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Devon Hedges Jonah Spivak (Bentleys)	<a href="mailto:bentleys@necaveconservancy.org">bentleys@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Morgan Ingalls Jacob Morris-Siegel (Merlins)	<a href="mailto:merlins@necaveconservancy.org">merlins@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Luke Mazza (Bensons)	<a href="mailto:bensons@necaveconservancy.org">bensons@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Kevin Dumont (Spider)	<a href="mailto:spider@necaveconservancy.org">spider@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Cara Gentry and Eric Richards (interim) (Salamander)	<a href="mailto:salamander@necaveconservancy.org">salamander@necaveconservancy.org</a>
	Devon Hedges (Traino)	<a href="mailto:traino_preserve@necaveconservancy.org">traino_preserve@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Liaisons Surprise Cave Thacher Park	Al De Maria Thom Engel	<a href="mailto:surprise@necaveconservancy.org">surprise@necaveconservancy.org</a> <a href="mailto:thacherpark@necaveconservancy.org">thacherpark@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Publications Editor Publisher Publicity	Christa Hay Danny Brass Christa Hay Christa Hay	<a href="mailto:publications@necaveconservancy.org">publications@necaveconservancy.org</a> <a href="mailto:newsletter@necaveconservancy.org">newsletter@necaveconservancy.org</a> <a href="mailto:publisher@necaveconservancy.org">publisher@necaveconservancy.org</a> <a href="mailto:publicity@necaveconservancy.org">publicity@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Science	R. Laurence Davis	<a href="mailto:science@necaveconservancy.org">science@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Technology	Michael Chu	<a href="mailto:technology@necaveconservancy.org">technology@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Investment	Vacant	<a href="mailto:investment@necaveconservancy.org">investment@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Risk Management Insurance Liaison	Mitch Berger Mitch Berger	<a href="mailto:riskmanagement@necaveconservancy.org">riskmanagement@necaveconservancy.org</a> <a href="mailto:insurance@necaveconservancy.org">insurance@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Special Use	Thom Engel	<a href="mailto:specialuse@necaveconservancy.org">specialuse@necaveconservancy.org</a>
Volunteer Value	Vince Kappler	<a href="mailto:volunteervalue@necaveconservancy.org">volunteervalue@necaveconservancy.org</a>

The *Northeastern Cave Conservancy News* is published quarterly by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. The Northeastern Cave Conservancy promotes the study and preservation of speleologically significant properties in the northeastern United States. Annual membership is \$20 (Regular), \$5 (Additional Family), \$50 (Benefactor), \$100 (Institutional), \$125 (Family Life Membership), and \$400 (Life Membership). All checks made payable and sent to:

Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc. · P.O. Box 254 · Schoharie, N.Y. 12157

[www.necaveconservancy.org](http://www.necaveconservancy.org)

Volume 23, Number 2

June 2021

**In this Issue**

Notes from the Underground.....3  
 Help Wanted - Stewardship Coordinator.....4  
 Extract from Clarksville Cave Manager's Log.....5

**Next Board Meeting**

**Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 10:00 am**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this will be a virtual meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting and have not already been provided with log-in information, please contact [secretary@necaveconservancy.org](mailto:secretary@necaveconservancy.org) to get log-in instructions.

**Fall Board Meeting  
Date to be Determined**

The **Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC)** is a not-for-profit corporation committed to the conservation, study, management, and acquisition of caves and karst areas having significant geological, hydrological, biological, recreational, historical, or aesthetic features.

To these ends, the NCC combines the resources and expertise of affiliated cave explorers, educators, scientists, landowners, and conservation officials.

The NCC programs are focused mainly on the preservation of caves and karst. Outreach includes education in schools and local communities, establishment of park spaces on karstlands, and educational messages about the significance of groundwater pollution on this sensitive underground ecosystem.

NCC members assist in the exploration, survey, and protection of these natural resources, and manage them so you can explore them yourself.

NCC logo design by Christa Hay



## NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

### Conservation of Caves Pays Off in Underappreciated Ways

— Peter Youngbaer as told to Rachel Hellman —

There is nothing like the stillness that envelops you 1,000 feet underground in the heart of a cave. My favorite thing to do down there is turn off my headlamp and just listen. I hear what sounds like a stream in the distance — it's actually just a trickle of water, but the acoustics of the cave are unlike anything you can encounter on the surface. There might be a rush of cool air, signaling to me another passage. The breeze is weighty, yet free. It's really like entering another world within our own.

It's my wife Jane's fault that I'm so obsessed with caves. We met at Goddard College in Vermont back in 1969, and at the time she had some experience with caving. It was one particularly boring afternoon in the spring when she suggested we check out nearby Morris Cave. I looked at her like she was crazy, but I agreed. I remember that afternoon like it was yesterday — we stoop-walked and belly crawled 400 feet, went through a few narrow passageways, and popped into this vastly huge, beautiful space. I was giddy with awe! From that point on, I was hooked.

Jane and I studied abroad in France to see some of the most famous caves in the world. We saw the Pech Merle cave that has these intricate drawings from 25,000 years ago — really, a prehistoric art gallery. We met up with a local caving club outside of Paris that brought us to a cave hidden next to an apple tree in the backyard of an old couple's house. Imagine that.

Jane and I have been exploring and working to conserve caves for decades now. During the day, I'm the manager at the Plainfield Co-Op, a small community grocery store in central Vermont, but I always have my caving pack with me in case I need to help with a rescue or lead a weekend trip for the Northeast Cave Conservancy.

I think a lot of people have a misconception of what caves are about and why their protection and conservation are so important. Caves conjure up all sorts of fears, which is why most people cringe at the idea of going into one. But even bats — kind of spooky creatures — play a critical role in our ecosystem. Bats promote biodiversity by dispersing the seeds of hundreds of species of plants and acting as major pollinators.

It's also crucial that we protect caves because they are incredibly important to our understanding and treatment of groundwater pollution. Networks of groundwater are greatly affected by the topography of caves. Surface development projects that fail to consider the placement of caves, such as the building of airports or factories, can cause contaminated runoff that seeps into the waterways



Peter Youngbaer exploring the New River Cave in Virginia. Photo courtesy of Peter Youngbaer.

of underlying cave systems. That's why the cave conservation community has occasionally intervened in legal proceedings to protect groundwater. We are not only trying to conserve the caves from development, but we're also trying to protect the public from groundwater pollution and flooding, which can result in undrinkable water.

I also want to preserve caves for curious individuals like me who will continue to steward them. Caves offer a glimpse into the earth's natural history and also our human history. Humans have been going in and out of caves since our dawning.

Caves are the last wilderness on earth. The uniqueness of what exists underground is absolutely breathtaking. Gypsum crystals in the ceiling that are 18 feet long and look like they belong in a ballroom chandelier. Cave systems that are 550 miles of continuous passages. Coastal caves, and caves with bioluminescent moss that glows when the light coming in is just right.

I feel lucky to have witnessed so many beautiful landscapes underground, but it's that brief moment when I turn my headlamp off and hear the cave breathe — the movement of cold air, a twinkle of water, my own inhale and exhale — that leaves me coming back again and again.

Peter Youngbaer is a life member and former vice president of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy. Rachel Hellman is a journalist based in New York's Hudson Valley.

This article was reprinted, with permission, from the May 9, 2021 issue of the *Boston Globe*.



**HELP WANTED**  
— Bob Simmons —

The NCC has grown to eleven preserves, and we are looking to expand that number all the time. Our Preserves are what we are all about and our best advertisements for who we are and what we do. As the number of preserves increases and the complexity of preserve management also increases, the day-to-day workload increases proportionately.

Historically, all preserves answer directly to the President. We are looking for someone that can ease that workload and move a number of stewardship initiatives forward, while assisting our new and seasoned Preserve Managers with whatever they need.

At the March NCC Board meeting, the position of Stewardship Coordinator was created under the President. The duties of the Stewardship Coordinator will include, but not be limited to: onboarding of new preserve managers, producing and updating the “NCC Preserve Managers Handbook,” collecting Preserve Reports for each Board meeting for inclusion in the Presidents Report, providing assistance with Management Plan updates, ensuring that Management Plan updates and all Board-approved common language/statements are included in each Plan and that up-dated plans are posted to the web site, and assisting Managers with specific resources and projects.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in and be good at, please drop a note to [president@necaveconservancy.org](mailto:president@necaveconservancy.org)



## EXTRACT FROM MY CLARKSVILLE CAVE MANAGER'S LOG BOOK — Thom Engel —

By any measure, Clarksville is different from most of our other NCC preserves. Many people know of it or have heard of it. It can be found on Google® maps. Thus, we get a lot of neophytes, some of whom are just plain flummoxed. Many have driven a long distance but are ill-prepared. In late February 2012, I started keeping a log of my manager duties at the cave.

From the beginning, I kept track of surface visitation versus underground trips. I tracked the number of adults, kids, and dogs. (Nobody brings cats to the preserve, though for three years there were two small cats hanging around and let's not discount the domestic geese belonging to the guy on the other side of 443).

I will generally redact names unless it is a positive entry. Much of what I wrote was utterly banal and not worth repeating. Should I choose to comment it will be in red-line.

02/25/2012 – Community Church (3/10) (this is my shorthand for 3 adults and 10 minors. A third number would be the number of dogs.) were informed they needed a special use permit.

04/01/2012 – Two locals without helmets or a change of clothes – told them they were needed – they left and came back with them and went in.

04/28/2012 – Troop \_\_ from Ithaca – were sent away. No permits from NCC or the BSA and they had kids too young to qualify under BSA rules. Guy said, “We could be a church group if that helps.” Over the years I have encountered lots of groups and individuals that come long distances without checking online first. They try to guilt me, but I always turn it back on the trip leader.

Troop \_\_ with a permit (3/4). Scout rules for caving have changed over the years. The NCC requires scout troops to comply with those rules. Four morons “who have done [the cave without proper equipment] for years” and don't care about WNS. “I even swum in the Hudson.” Implying, I suppose she doesn't get sick. Paul Rubin reports they were smoking and drinking in the cave.

05/05/2012 – CT\_\_ School without a permit. They claim they tried to contact us, but never went through the NCC website. They were told they had to leave.

05/06/2012 – One car left all night – explained to the owner why we worry about cars left all night. To make it clear, we worry someone is lost or injured in the cave in this situation.

Five \_\_ – all minors – “If I want to be wet and muddy that's my business.” No helmets – no change of clothes –

smoking in cave. No brains.

07/04/2012 – Camp \_\_ from Hallstead, PA – told them they could not enter without a permit. The special use permit system had “only” been in place eight years by this time.

08/01/2012 – Had a permit for one group. They came with two vans and 24+ people. They were told to narrow the group size to 15.

08/19/2012 – Family group of four from Schenectady – all been caving before, but 1st time to Clarksville.

08/22/2012 – Showed up with 20 people on one group permit. They copied the permit so as to seem to have two permits. They hadn't yet sent in waivers because they've “always sent them in after the trip.” The rules at the time required the waivers to be sent in on or before the date of the trip. Waivers are inadequate. They will need to have remedial waiver instruction. They tried to guilt me into allowing the larger group. I hate the guilt thing. They fail to follow the rules or read the permit or the website and they try to make it my problem.

09/08/2012 – Absolutely dumb about not getting mud in their vehicle. Many groups do not understand the WNS rules.

10/03/2012 – Spoke with a local geocacher. He'd already placed a geocache and wanted to know if it was okay. I explained why we didn't want geocaches and he understood and removed it. The problem with geocaches is they provide locations without any information on proper equipment or WNS.

10/07/2012 – Two related families doing a *My Side of the Mountain* tour based upon the Jean Craighead George young adult novel (4/3). This surprised me and I read the book. Nothing about caves. I asked the librarian about this and she suggested the sequel, *The Other Side of the Mountain*. There is a cave in this book, but it isn't Clarksville. It is most likely based on Church and Wagonwheel Caves.

10/19/2012 – About 9:30 am, Osborn was dry as was the Onesquethaw at the west end of Clarksville at St Rte 443. At 11:00 am, the water was high in Onesquethaw Creek and high at Devane Spring. Osborn was still dry. At 11:30 am, Osborn was ripping, as well. The rainfall in Albany was about 2.3 inches of rain. Steve Lewanick says the water rose six inches in a half hour.

10/27/2012 – College without a permit. I explained the requirement had been in place for over eight years and

that it was on the kiosk. Group walked up. It was reported by NCC members that the faculty member told the students there was too much writing on the kiosk and no one could be expected to read it all. **You can't make these things up.**

11/23/2012 – Three adults felt that asking people to comply with WNS procedures was harassment. They were told to leave.

01/19/2013 – Four guys (two in shorts) without helmets. Were told they need to be better equipped and sent away. **Shorts in January?**

03/29/2013 – Venture Crew without a permit. Had old version of NCC waivers and BSA permit – exited Thook – **which BSA groups are not supposed to use.** Got into car without changing clothes, though they claimed to know about WNS. I explained that scout groups needed permits for all NCC caves. Leader noted, without my prompting, that Onesquethaw visits required a permit. **This set my spidey sense tingling.** They left. I left and decided to swing by Onesquethaw and caught the same group there getting ready to enter the cave without a permit. I got rather “short” with the guy and yelled at him and told them to leave. He objected to me not letting them change. I said they'd already screwed up the WNS issues by getting in the car at Clarksville.

04/20/2013 – Two Jake Moon customers with poor footwear – one decided to see how easy it was to get in and out of the Ward entrance. Having poor footwear, she slipped and broke her elbow. Despite being able to walk, they called 911.

05/06/2013 – Two locals on surface – guy and his girlfriend – she didn't like it because it was “too woodsy.”

07/23/2013 – Camp \_\_ with last year's permit.

08/10/2013 – A local who rents port-a-johns stopped by and suggested the NCC should have port-a-johns for visitors. **See 08/19/2013.**

8/13/2013 – Steve Lewanick reports a group of 100 in the Big Room without a permit. He didn't get a group name, but the visit was part of a 200-mile bike trip from a Christian camp near Oneonta.

08/19/2013 – Ran into Bill Ryan of the Albany Co. Health Department responding to a complaint to the New Scotland Building Inspector about our lack of bathroom facilities. **See 08/20/2013.**

08/20/2013 – Mr. Pine from the Town of New Scotland was here. **I feel compelled to connect the dots. In my opinion the local on 8/10 made the complaint, which precipitated the visits yesterday and today. As I'd made it a point to carefully police the grounds, neither Messrs. Ryan nor Pine could find any cause for complaint.**

10/19/2013 – A couple of young locals with one flashlight between them. I explained proper equipment and told them they couldn't enter the cave. They left.

01/20/2014 – Scout group from Unadilla without either an NCC or BSA permit and with 18 people ranging from 9 to adult. Were sent away.

04/12/2014 – Older couple, members of MHLC, looking for a place to release a trapped opossum. Since the preserve is right in town, I suggested it should be released in a more rural place like the MHLC's Holt Preserve.

06/21/2014 – Boy Scout Troop \_\_ from Massachusetts without a permit – two scouts under 14 – no T&A **[Trip & Activity]** plan with them. The “leader” thought only groups of ten or more needed permits. **I've no idea where he got that idea.**

10/03/2015 – First season the cave was closed due to the listing of the Northern long-eared bat as threatened. Groups were told the cave was closed.

05/26/2016 – Garbage in parking lot – large bag of wet clothes in changing area – no vehicles.

05/30/2016 – Four from Yonkers (4/0) – newbies but properly equipped and with a change of clothes.

06/08/2016 – Pioneer Valley \_\_ School (3/9) with no permit. Were told to leave.

10/22/2016 – Chef at Jake Moon reports a bus being at cave 10/19.

11/24/2016 – Two cars in upper lot. **I will omit make, model, and license plate #s.** I left a note; a guy called me. He claimed he'd gone there, and his kids had already gone in. He went in to bring them out.

01/21/2017 – Car in upper lot...They called and said their friend told them the cave was open. I told them the signs were pretty clear and that the cave was closed, and they should inform their friend.

04/15/2017 – Showed up to go in the cave with a pack of cub scouts. **Cub scouts are not allowed in wild caves per BSA rules.** He claims he never heard back from the NCC. First, he asked to go on 4/22, but showed up on 4/15 probably thinking no one would be there. Second, he was told prior that the cave was closed and that cub scouts could not go in per BSA rules. He was told to go away. He blamed his ISP for not getting the NCC response, but he did respond back on my 1st exchange, so he clearly got that. He told the scouts that I would not let them enter the cave. **I just want to smack people like this.**

05/27/2017 – Couple from Columbia Co. – never caved, but properly equipped except no change of clothes – they went to Walmart and returned and went into the cave.

06/24/2017 – Group from Camp Pinnacle without a permit. I explained the rules and sent them away.

06/25/2017 – Family of three from Boston in shorts, T-shirts, and sneakers want to look into the cave. I explained they were welcome to walk to the entrance but were ill-equipped. **First why would someone drive about 170 miles and not bother to be equipped? Second, in the age of WNS simply “bopping” into a cave for a quick look is not a good idea. In Clarksville, it is virtually impossible to not get some mud on clothing.**

07/26/2017 – Boy scout troop without a permit – I’d issued a permit for Onesquethaw, thinking they were an LDS summer camp as they’d failed to mention they were actually a boy scout troop. **They were not complying with scout rules.** Waivers were poorly done. I had a meaningful Socratic dialogue with the scoutmaster and the idea that scouts are supposed to be truthful. They were not allowed entry into Clarksville.

11/23/2017 – Blue Honda \_\_\_ at cave at 9:30 am – two older people out at 10:35 am. Their excuse was, “We both know there are no bats in this cave.” I explained how wrong he was. He then complained that I was keeping him from changing his clothes and that he was cold.

05/05/2018 – Group from Long Island – 17 total– not all going in – not all with helmets – (DAYINMAY – NY plates). **I call this crew the DAYINMAY crew, and it was not their last time at the cave.** Must have been here all night – were drinking and smoking pot and cigarettes in cave. I told them to leave. It took a while as they had to remove their sound system. They claimed they leave the cave cleaner than they found it. **Other groups told me the cave was a mess.**

08/11/2018 – Local group “shooting” an Instagram film on the surface. They already did the in-cave stuff. **First, filming needs a permit from the NCC (GoPro stuff excepted). This group tried telling legitimate visitors to the cave that they couldn’t go due to the filming. The NCC has never given any group exclusive use of the cave.**

08/25/2018 – Guy showed up to find stuff left behind yesterday on a school team trip that should have had a permit but didn’t. **Forgetting the lack of a permit, it rarely happens that someone comes or e-mails the managers looking for stuff left behind. I have found wetsuits, numerous lights, and even an I-phone. I held onto the phone for a month assuming someone would contact us. I finally delivered it to the local Apple store.**

10/01/2018 – Put up the DEC “Restricted Area” signs. At the Ward entrance, two people in cave gear arrived. I told them the cave was closed and asked if they’d seen the sign at the kiosk. They had. I asked them what they thought it meant, and they felt it had to do with WNS. I told them to read the entire sign. They did and one said, “Oh.”

10/06/2018 – Group from Warsaw, NY. (3/2) They were sent to Thacher. **No point in driving 260 miles one-way and seeing nothing.** Put up a sign at the kiosk that simply says **CAVE CLOSED.** **Perhaps people can comprehend that.**

05/04/2019 – The DAYINMAY crew. Caught them early. They came before 7:00 am and were ill-equipped, but did have their sound system. They were told to leave as they were not properly equipped. They left.

06/01/2019 – Troop \_\_\_ from central Massachusetts without a permit. They were told to leave. Their “leader” hadn’t been to the cave in eight years. **Permits were required in 2011. As slight diversion about scout groups: All scout groups require special-use permits. The NCC requires scout groups to follow scout rules. BSA and GSA have different rules. Personally, I don’t agree with all of them, but to be covered by scout insurance they must be followed. For example, for the BSA, the in-cave leader must have 1) three years of continuous membership in the National Speleological Society (NSS), 2) three years of continuous membership in a grotto sanctioned by the NSS, 3) three years of experience in cave exploration, verifiable by trip log or grotto attestation, 4) current certification in first aid and CPR, and 5) instruction in or exposure to cave rescue techniques. There are group size limits smaller than the NCC’s 15, and there are specific equipment requirements.**

10/14/2019 – A lone individual looking for the cave. I explained the cave was closed and that even had it been open an individual—especially one who’s never been caving—should not go in alone.

10/19/2019 – Van pulled in. I flagged them down and they drove away quickly before I could talk to them. I suspect they were the DAYINMAY crew as the van looked familiar.

10/19/2019 – Guy from Springfield, Massachusetts. Exact situation as 10/14/2019.

02/23/2020 – Two guys insisting they are not going in the cave. They went in the cave. **I have the make, model, and license plate number.**

07/03/2020 – Group of seven Russians from Philadelphia without any helmets – sent them to Thacher Park.

07/03/2020 – Local with eight-year-old daughter. I suggested this might be a problem if he gets hurt and the daughter has to go for help. He admitted he hadn’t thought of that and they left.

07/11/2020 – Group from Saratoga (3/0) – T-shirts, shorts, no helmets, no change of clothes – gave them info on proper equipment and explained the cave environment. **Some folks don’t quite grasp the idea that caves are not warm in the summer.**



07/12/2020 – Group from Pittsfield (3/2) – T-shirts, shorts, no helmets, no change of clothes – gave them info on proper equipment – they’d never heard of WNS – They walked around and decided to go to Walmart to equip themselves.

03/20/2021 – Three guys to do cave. “Leader” admitted he’d misread website. I gave directions to Traino and Spider.

04/10/2021 – Three cars – group of six from Binghamton University to do geology – didn’t realize cave was closed

– gave directions to Joralemon and Thacher.

04/17/2021 – Two guys from Rochester – misread the website – Sent to Traino.

04/27/2021 – Two women looking for the cave because Apple maps says the cave is “kid friendly.”

Finally, in case you are interested, 22% of our preserve visitors are just walking the surface. Many of these are customers of Jake Moons. But many are also locals that run or walk dogs on the preserve.

